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Economic Recovery Team

Meeting Date: 09/08/2020 10-11AM

**Short Term Economic Recovery:**

Kim White Update: School will be able to support COVID parents, help with mental health, hire a bilingual part-time community liaison. Excited to have support available going into the fall.

Lisa Branner Update: Dale Garland with the Hardrock Hundred is a source for $2000/3000 in potential donations.

John Reiter Update: Sales tax collections is positive, and they aren’t looking nearly as dire as their original projections.

Becky Joyce Update: Outbreak a little over a week ago. Out of 70 tests, 45 were in the last 2 weeks and they have all been negative. Upgraded training capacity and training more personnel to be quick and efficient. Increased their test stock to have on hand. No new positives since last week. Test times are at about 2.1 days turnaround. Expecting a spike over the 3-day weekend. With the state allowing restaurants to stay open to 11, they will be on the lookout for the effect of that.

Jim Harper Update: Grand Imperial 69.4% occupancy norm vs 71% occupancy now. People are staying longer, and they are above average. They expected to see a dip in the end of August, but it never happened.

Deanne Update: Some restaurants are taking breaks due to no employees, or exhaustion. Motels are reporting longer stays. Hearing information on vaccines on the horizon and CO may be one of the first states to try it, beginning in November. Winter ski areas are planning for potential rsvp systems. Haven’t heard from Telluride or Purgatory, we’ll be on the lookout for updates from them. Despite the smoke we still had high numbers in town. 4 Corners bike rally got some pushback from surrounding communities, so though they did come to Silverton, it was subdued.

Kiki Houton Update: SWCOSBDC, people/businesses looking how to move their businesses online. 6-part series coming up to help businesses set up this way. Learning e-commerce and set up. Sending out information soon.

Brittney Update: Showcase on 22nd where some ideas will be pitched to investors. We will get invites. Rural innovation, offering free scholarships for online digital training. Digital marketing, business analytics, etc. She will send us more information.

Deanne has been working with Kiki and Brittney to find the right fit for our community with their upcoming programs.

**Technology Broadband:**

Kim says she is going on 3 paths trying to work this out. Forethought, Securo to set up satellite access, T-Mobile, and Century Link. None are currently coming to fruition. They have solutions for individual families for short-term solutions, but still trying to get something moving with long term solutions. Heather offers Deeply Digital to Kim by email.

**Workforce Housing:** No updates

**OHVs:** Willy mentions we may want to discuss how to quantify the economic impact of OHVs. Deanne mentions the difficulty of actually measuring this. By asking to the businesses, previously, they had some blow-back from businesses who didn’t want to discuss it. John R is willing to moderate, the trick is getting people to be willing to talk about it. Kim suggest maybe a college intern or a group from one of the colleges who will do the analysis for us. 2 years ago, Whitney Gaskill’s class is tackling the OHV issues, 4th and 5th graders are going to be studying this, this year too and will do a public presentation this winter.

Parking 12th/Reese is ultra-congested. Trucks, trailers, dust on roads area all issues with OHVs. John R said they are developing a 15 minute only plan for the post office parking. Something to really consider with the Train coming back to town next year it will only be worse. The restaurants loved the street space for eating, could be something that could continue into the future. Deanne adds that other communities have also considered this in the future.